

PRAYER BY BILLY GRAHAM

Nixons Hold Church Rites at White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon worshipped at the White House Sunday and heard evangelist Billy Graham pray that in a time of crisis of the spirit God would give him and his associates "a wisdom that is beyond their own."

On his first Sunday in office, Mr. and Mrs. Nixon invited members of the Cabinet, other ranking officials, the White House staff and families to 11 o'clock services in the East Room. There were seats for 224. All were filled, and a few persons stood in the rear.

There were prayers and hymns and a sermon as in most churches — but no collection.

Dr. Graham in a lighter moment took note of the omission. He recalled that the last time he and Mr. Nixon attended church, the latter was a bit uneasy and nervous. He said he then President-elect leaned over and said he had no money with him, so "I loaned him the biggest bill I had."

Receiving Line

There was a receiving line in the State Dining Room at which the Chief Executive said he and Mrs. Nixon planned to worship in the Executive Mansion every Sunday when they are in town, with different pastors officiating.

Mr. Nixon said it was the first time services had been held in that part of the White House.

There will be no Roman Catholic Mass, he said, but a Catholic archbishop will be invited to officiate at some point.

Mrs. Nixon said members of the White House staff from all levels would be invited to the services in rotation. She said there were eight telephone oper-

ators present Sunday who never had been in that part of the White House before.

Reporters spotted eight of the 12 Cabinet members plus Vice President Agnew.

In the afternoon, the President, his wife and older daughter Tricia went for an hour-and-35-minute drive around Washington in a White House limousine chauffeured by a Secret Service agent.

They drove by the residence in the Spring Valley area where they lived while he was Vice President and by the Burning Tree Country Club. But the car made only one stop — at a Massachusetts Ave. delicatessen where the family used to shop.

A spokesman said Mr. Nixon went into the store but made no purchases.

Contrast to Custom

The practice of having White House services will be in contrast to the custom of former President Lyndon B. Johnson who went out to attend both Protestant and Catholic services, occasionally going to two churches on a single Sunday.

If Mr. Nixon is right on his history, the services Sunday added a new dimension to the many uses of the great white-and-gold East Room with its enormous crystal chandelier and the portraits of George and Martha Washington on a wall.

It has been used for such diverse things as hanging up laundry, concerts, diplomatic receptions, balls, news conferences and a place for homage to Presidents who have died and lain there in state.

Straight-backed chairs with gold tapestry seats were set up in rows Sunday, facing an organ, pul-

pit and the piano at the north end of the room.

Dr. Graham gave the invocation and his associate, T. W. Wilson, the benediction. At the piano for the hymns was Tedd Smith.

The congregation joined in singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," to Smith's accompaniment. George Beverly Shea sang a solo, "How Great Thou Art."

Dr. Graham prayed especially for the President, the Vice President, members of the Cabinet and their families.

For his sermon, the evangelist used as a text a sentence from Mr. Nixon's Inaugural Address which he said pinpoints the problems of today more than any passage he has heard:

"To a crisis of the spirit, we need an answer of the spirit."

Dr. Graham said the White House swimming pool is nothing to what Solomon had. He told of feasting, wining, 700 wives and 300 concubines of the biblical king.

'He Had It All'

"Talk about sex," Graham said, "and about sensual pleasures—he had it all."

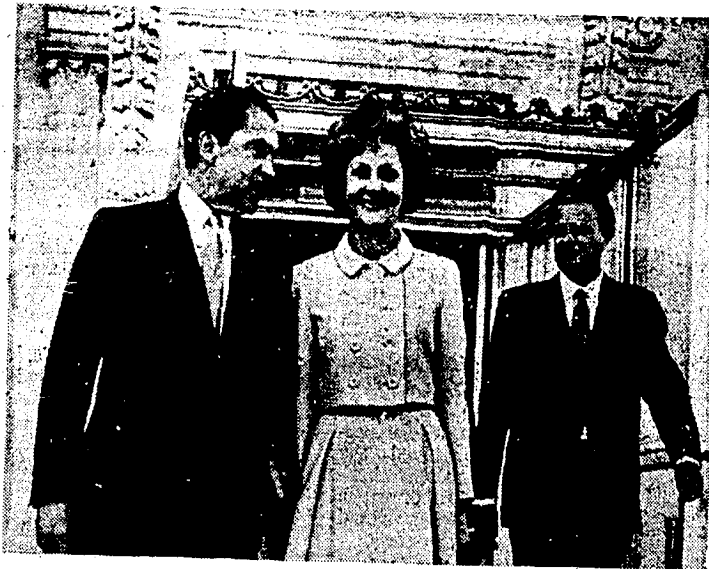
Solomon was a great man, Dr. Graham said, but had something missing. He said that man is a creature of the spirit and the crisis of today is one of the spirit. Solomon, he said, found his answer only when he tried religion last.

"How do you find God?" the evangelist inquired.

"You find God through faith."

Some of the unhappiest people today, he said, are not in the ghettos but in the suburbs, because we have been trying to find joy through material things alone.

Even the hippies, Dr. Graham said, are searching for something. He said he liked them and found this out on personal visits to such spots as San Francisco's Haight - Ashbury district. He recalled putting on dark glasses as a disguise and going to a love-in. "Some experience," he said.



AFTER SERVICE President and Mrs. Nixon walk from East Room after services in White House conducted by evangelist Billy Graham.

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